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# u.s. coast guard news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**30 Jan 01**  
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## Coast Guard to award rescuers from sport fishing vessel

SAN DIEGO -- Tomorrow the Coast Guard will present Certificates of Merit to the crew of the passenger vessel Sea Star for assisting the vessel Game Fish as it was in danger of sinking with 34 persons on board.

On the morning of July 31, 1999 the 44-foot Game Fish began taking on water off Las Flores Beach, Camp Pendelton. Joe Cacciola, the master of the 54-foot Sea Star, picked up the Game Fish's distress call and came to their aid. They ensured all the passengers were evacuated safely to their boat and another assisting vessel. Cacciola's crew then helped pump out the Game Fish and stop the flooding. The source of the flooding was later determined to be the vessel's bait tank.

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The awards will be presented to Joe Cacciola, Bobby Turner, Allen Giagnocavo and Travis Vaughan at the Sportfishing Association's annual Small Passenger Vessel Safety Seminar at the Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute.

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**MEDIA ADVISORY:** The media is invited to the presentation, scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday January 31, 2001. A copy of the basic award citation is attached. This press release and a copy of the basic award citation is available online at our unit web site <http://www.uscg.mil/d11/sandiego/mso/publicaffairs.htm>.